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EXPLORING the SUPERNATURAL!
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Nº 29
MAY
FORBIDDEN WORLDS
10¢
THAT AWFUL THING'S GOT ME---AND I CAN'T USE MY SPEAR-GUN!
Down IN THE DEPTHS OF THE HAUNTED LAKE IT LURKED--- AND ITS TALONS TORE AT MEN'S SOULS! FOR A SPINECHILLING STORY OF WEIRD MENACE, DON'T MISS: "The FROGMAN!"

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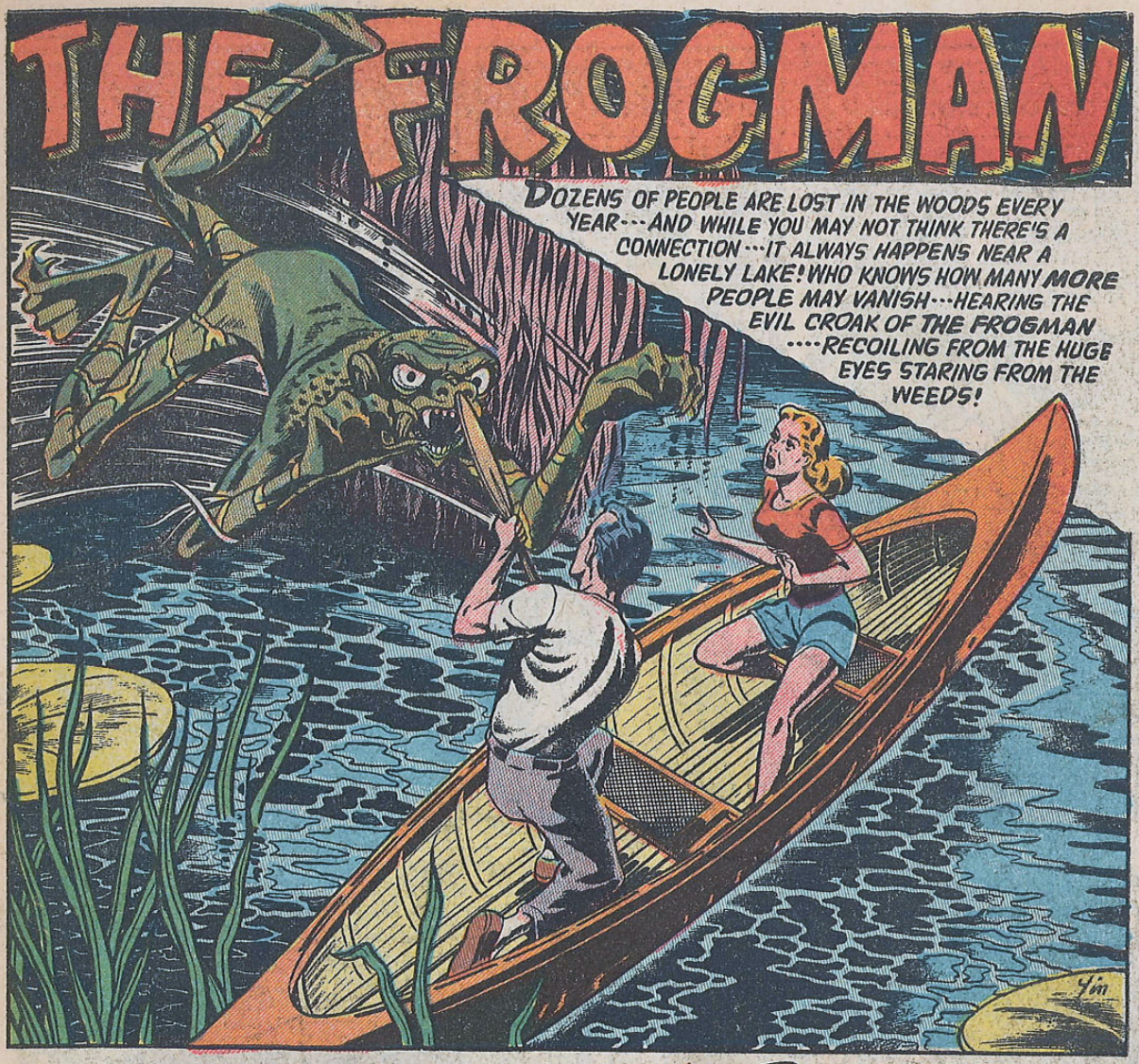
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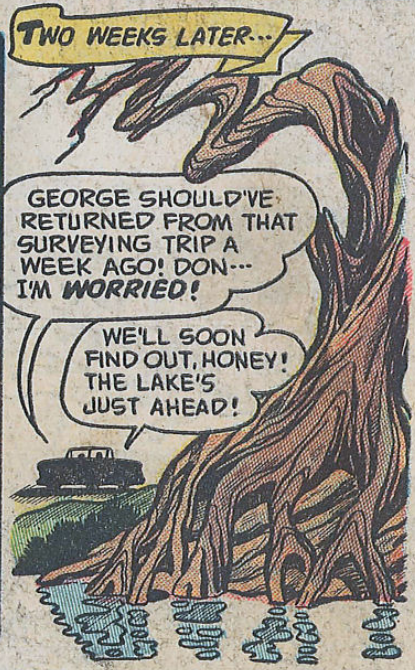
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THE FROGMAN



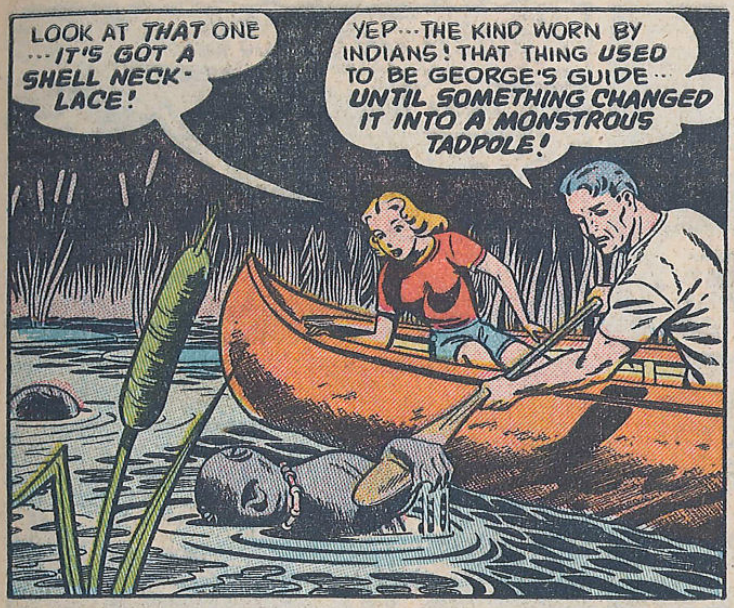
LOOK CLOSELY AT THIS YOUNG ENGINEER AND HIS INDIAN GUIDE--- BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN ---AS HUMANS!



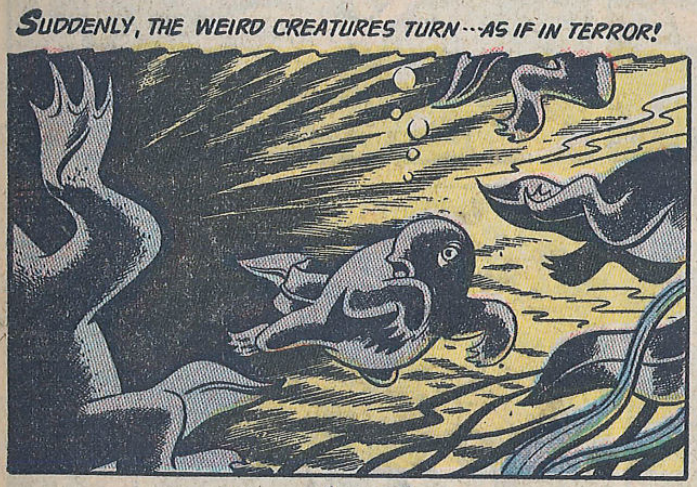


FORBIDDEN WORLDS, published monthly and copyright, 1954, by Titan Publishing Co. Inc., 420 DeSoto Avenue, St. Louis 7, Missouri. Editorial offices, 45 West 45 Street, New York 36, N. Y. Richard E. Hughes, Editor; Frederick H. Iger, Business Manager. Subscription (12 issues), $1.20; single copies, $0.10; foreign postage extra. All characters are fictitious and use of any real names is coincidental. For advertising information, address American Comics Group, Inc., 45 West 45 Street, New York 36, N. Y. Re-entered as second class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Missouri. No. 29, May, 1954.
Printed in U.S.A.


STRANGE···ALL HIS EQUIPMENT HERE···AND A LAYER OF DUST OVER EVERYTHING!
THERE'S HIS SPEARFISHING OUTFIT! DON··· I'VE GOT A HORRIBLE FEELING HE'LL NEVER USE IT AGAIN!
LOOK! THERE'S HIS CANOE···FLOATING IN THE WEEDS!
YEP···AND THERE'S A COUPLE OF ODD-LOOKING IMPRINTS ON THE HULL!
THOSE AREN'T THE MARKS OF HANDS! THEY WERE MADE BY SOMETHING THAT ROSE FROM THE MUD···SOMETHING LIKE AN IMMENSE FROG!
GEORGE WAS A GOOD SWIMMER! HE COULDN'T HAVE DROWNED··· UNLESS HE WAS PULLED UNDER!
WE CAN'T LEAVE GEORGE'S BODY ···IN THAT AWFUL BLACK WATER···
A HEAVY BLAST SOMETIMES BRINGS DROWNED BODIES TO THE SURFACE! WE'LL TRY IT!
MINUTES LATER···IN THE MURKY DEPTHS···
BOOOOOM!
OHH! DON, THEY'RE NOT HUMAN BODIES ···THEY'RE TWITCHING MONSTERS!
HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE···BUT THEY WERE LIVING CREATURES BEFORE THE BLAST KILLED THEM!
LET'S PADDLE OUT FOR A CLOSER LOOK!
2.


LOOK AT THAT ONE ···IT'S GOT A SHELL NECK-LACE!
YEP···THE KIND WORN BY INDIANS! THAT THING USED TO BE GEORGE'S GUIDE··· UNTIL SOMETHING CHANGED IT INTO A MONSTROUS TADPOLE!


DON···I CAN MAKE OUT DOZENS OF THEM! THEY'RE SLITHERING THROUGH THE WEEDS··· THEY'RE HIDEOUS!


SUDDENLY, THE WEIRD CREATURES TURN···AS IF IN TERROR!


THEN···A RIPPLE BREAKS AMONG THE TANGLED WEEDS!
KUHRROAK!
HOLY MACKEREL··· WHAT IS IT?


OHH! DON ···LOOK OUT!


KRRRUK!
BLAM!

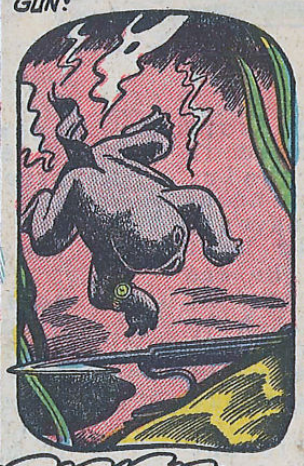

THAT OUGHT TO HOLD IT--- UNTIL WE REACH SHORE!
WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT... THE THING'S COMING AFTER US!
MARILYN... QUICK! GET AWAY FROM THE WATER!
KUHRRRROAK!
OHH!
IT'S SHOVING DON TOWARD THE WATER--- IT'S TRYING TO DROWN HIM! AND IF IT HAPPENS ---HE'LL TURN INTO ONE OF THOSE HIDEOUS TADPOLES!
THAT MONSTER HAS ALREADY CLAIMED GEORGE AND COUNTLESS OTHER VICTIMS---AND NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE DON!
GOOD HEAVENS! IT'S KNOCKED DON INTO THE WATER---AND THE FROGMAN'S READY TO LEAP AFTER HIM!
IN THE NEXT INSTANT...
KRRRUK!
CRRRASH!
SPLASH!
4


GOOD WORK, HONEY! IF THAT DOESN'T FINISH HIM··· NOTHING CAN!
WAIT! LOOK AT THOSE BUBBLES RISING AMONG THE WEEDS!
Then···GRATING EVILLY FROM THE DARK WATER···
KUHRRROAK!
IMAGINE HOPING IT WAS DEAD! IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN HARMED!
I CAN GUESS WHY, MARILYN! THAT MONSTER'S EVIL LIFE IS SPENT IN THE WATER··· THAT'S WHERE ITS VICTIMS UNDERGO THEIR HIDEOUS CHANGE···AND THAT'S WHERE IT'S GOT TO DIE!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING AFTER THAT THING···INTO THE LAKE? BUT THE WATER'S POLLUTED WITH EVIL, DON··· LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO THE VICTIMS!
THE CHANGE TOOK PLACE AFTER THEY WERE DEAD, HONEY! I'M GOING TO BE ALIVE WHEN I TACKLE THAT CREEP···AND I'M GOING TO STAY ALIVE!
GEORGE'S SPEARGUN! THE FROGMAN CAN SWIM RINGS AROUND ME··· I'LL BE FACING IT IN ITS OWN ELEMENT···BUT I'VE GOT THIS!
A MOMENT LATER···
THERE IT GOES!
DON···STAY AWAY FROM IT! YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE!
JUST A FEW FEET MORE···AND I'LL BE CLOSE ENOUGH FOR A SHOT!

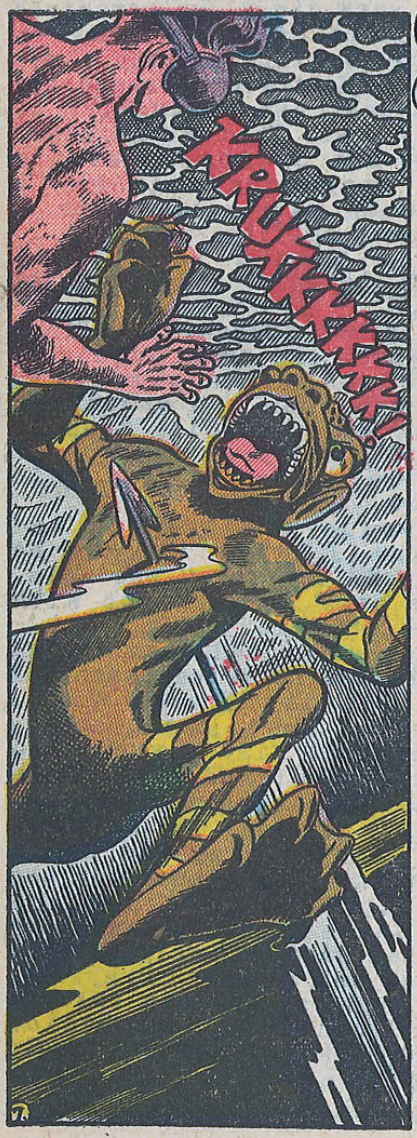

THE FROGMAN DUCKED INTO THESE WEEDS···AND SOMETHING TELLS ME I'VE BEEN LURED INTO A TRAP!
SUDDENLY···
KUHRRROAK!
YE GODS··· I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO AIM THE SPEARGUN!
IT'S KEEPING AFTER ME! I'D BETTER SURFACE···FAST!
POW!
MY GOSH··· THERE GOES THE SPEARGUN!
BLAM!
I'VE GOT TO DIVE AGAIN! WITHOUT A WEAPON···I WON'T LAST FIVE SECONDS!
UGH!
I'M GOING TO DIE···LIKE THE OTHERS···AND THEN THIS FIEND IS GOING AFTER MARILYN!
KUHRRRROAK!



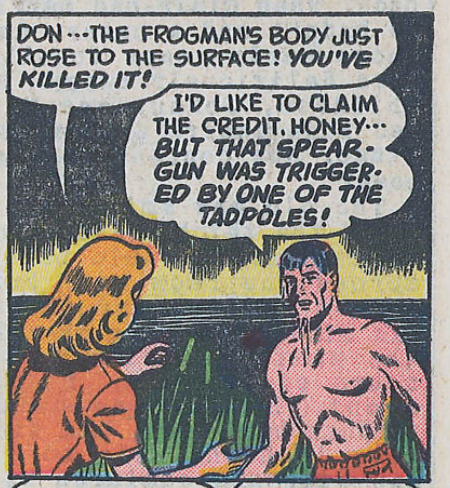
DON'S FRENZY SEEMED TO VIBRATE THROUGH THE MURKY WATER! ONE OF THE TADPOLES MOVED···SLOWLY AT FIRST···THEN CLEAVING TOWARD THE FALLEN SPEAR-GUN!

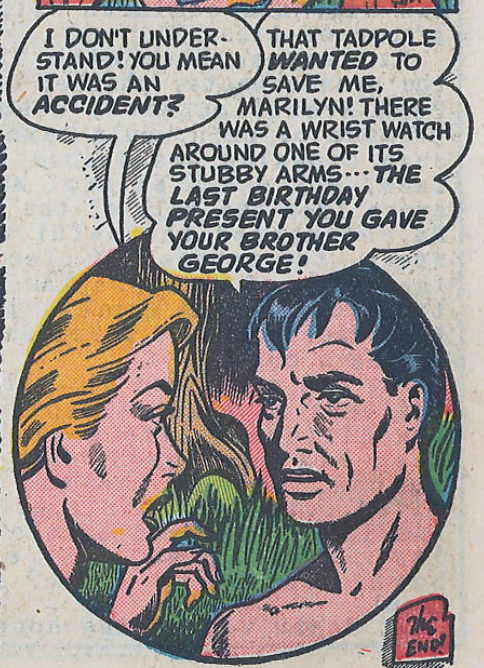












Journey's END

HE WAS OLD, and very, very tired. Sitting relaxed in his favorite leather chair, George Wumbar felt a drowsy numbness overcoming him, a heavenly bliss to which he would have liked to succumb forever. He was prepared to meet his end now. At the age of 80 he felt that he'd been waiting more than forty years for death to release him from his lonely and miserable existence.

Things had been so different once. When Clair had married him he hadn't had a penny, and yet, those early years together had been deliriously happy. The two children, Johnny and Mildred, had made theirs a perfect marriage. How content they all had been!

The old man smiled as he removed the thick glasses from his weak eyes. He could barely see across the room now, but that didn't matter, for the eye of his mind was seeing clearly into the past, reliving the happy hours of long ago. He thought about the fortune he'd made through hard work, and his gladness in being able to provide his wife and children with the graces of life.

Had anyone been with him in the ornate master chamber of his Park Avenue mansion, a sudden grimace of pain would have been seen crossing his deeply lined face. For now a painful memory arose from the well of the past. He remembered the awful train wreck, the screech of steel and the cries of agony as the great transcontinental express jumped the track going 80 miles an hour aroung a curve.

The old man wiped his glistening eyes as a sob escaped him. How different life would have been had his loved ones been spared. But no, he had survived...to bury Clair, Johnny and little Mildred on the same day. How glad he would have been to die with them!

But death was coming soon, he knew that. He felt hardly the strength to light his favorite pipe. All he wanted was to sleep and pray, pray that he would meet his wife and children again...in the beyond.

But who could be sure? How could any man know what lay behind the dark veil of death? A sharp pain suddenly stabbed at his heart.

As he gasped for breath he heard a familiar voice calling to him from very far away...

Then, very dimly, he perceived the presence of another person in the room, standing only a few feet away. He tried to reach for his glasses, but strangely, he couldn't move. He felt no fear, nothing but curiosity as the figure approached. It was a young woman, with golden hair,... and she was smiling.

"It's been a long time, George," she said. "I have come for you."

The old man suddenly realized that his eyes had grown stronger, that he could see perfectly across the room, to where two children were standing hand in hand, and smiling.

"Hello, Daddy," they said together.

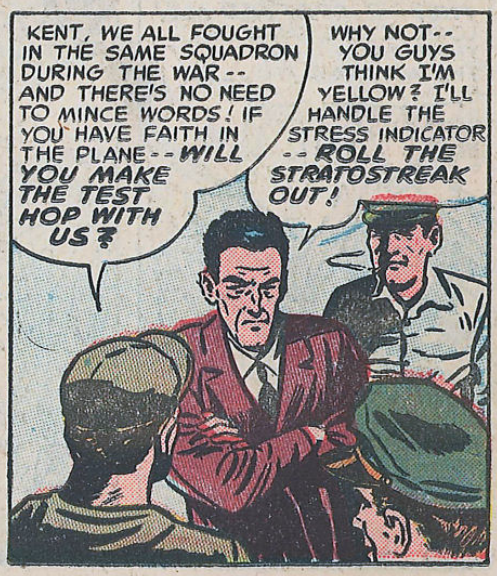
The woman now kneeled and touched his hand. "Don't be frightened, darling," she said. "We've come to take you with us. Will you come?"

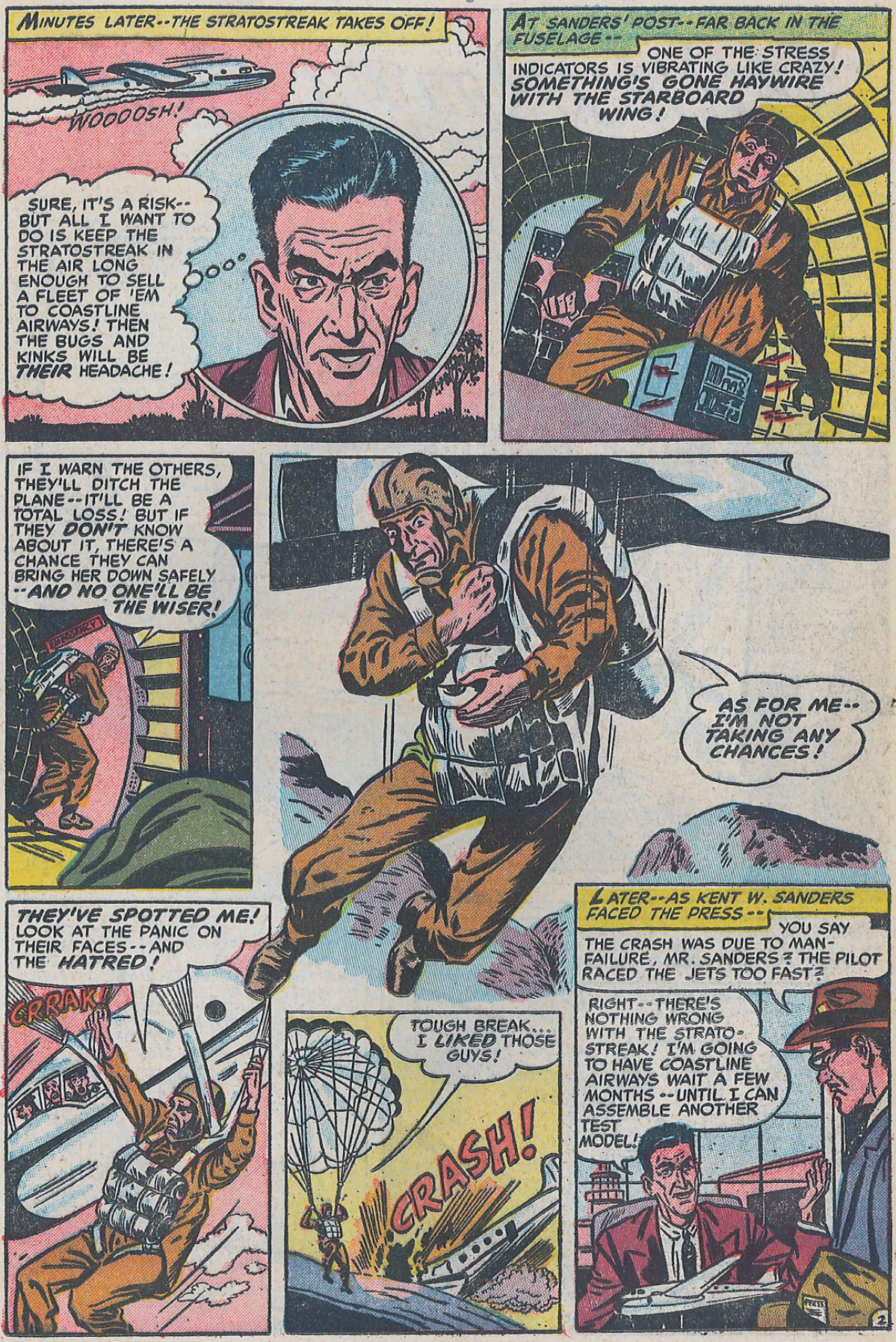
George Wumbar had been trying to speak, but no voice came from his stiffening frame. Then, strangely, he heard a voice emerging from him, a young and vigorous voice! And as he rose there was strength and suppleness in his muscles! The children ran to embrace him, and as he caught them up he glanced at the dead body he'd left behind. slumped in the chair. George knew that he had died, but only radiant happiness welled up in his spirit. He was young again, his beloved wife and children were beside him, and he knew that they would be together now...for all eternity.

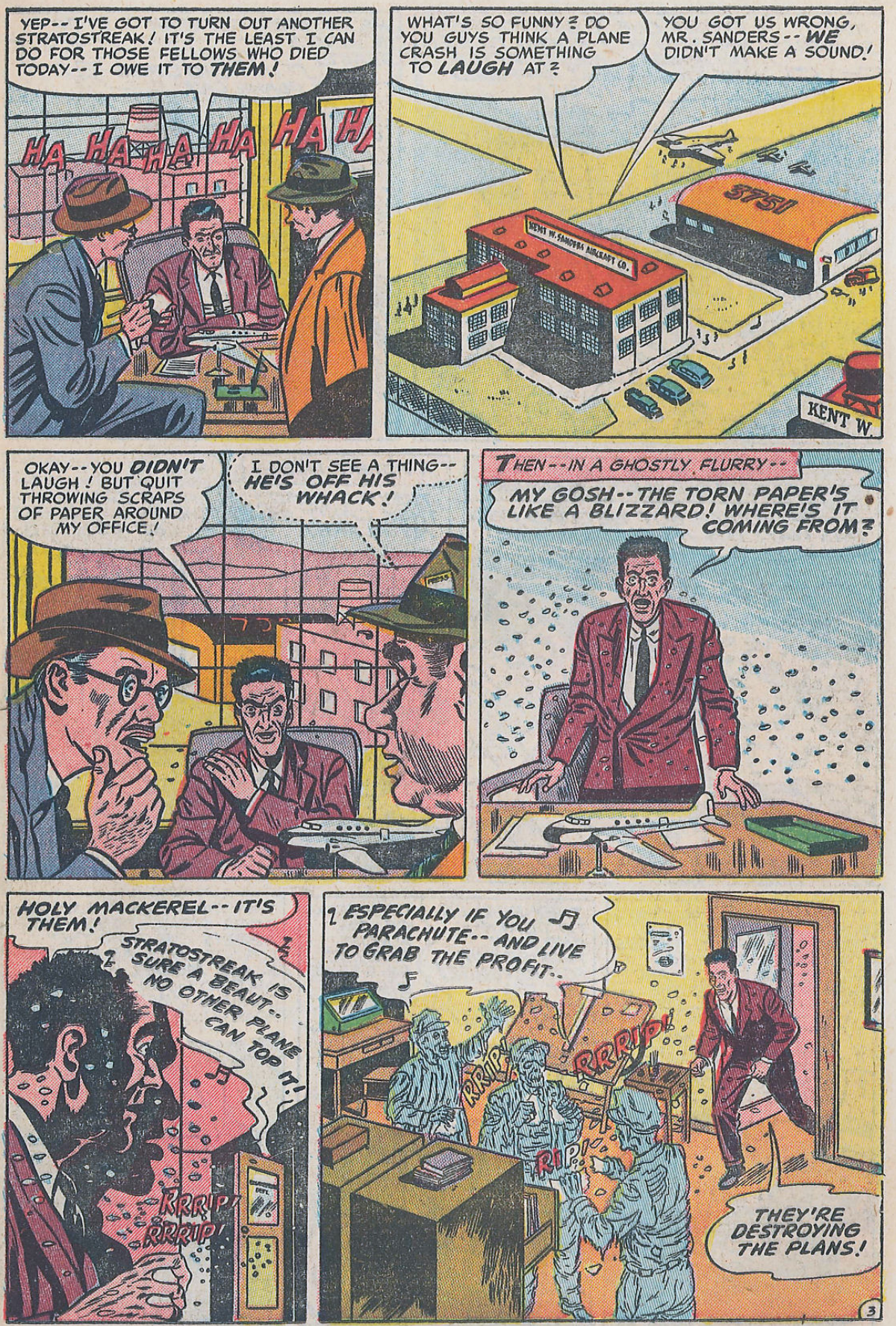
TERROR IN THE SKY



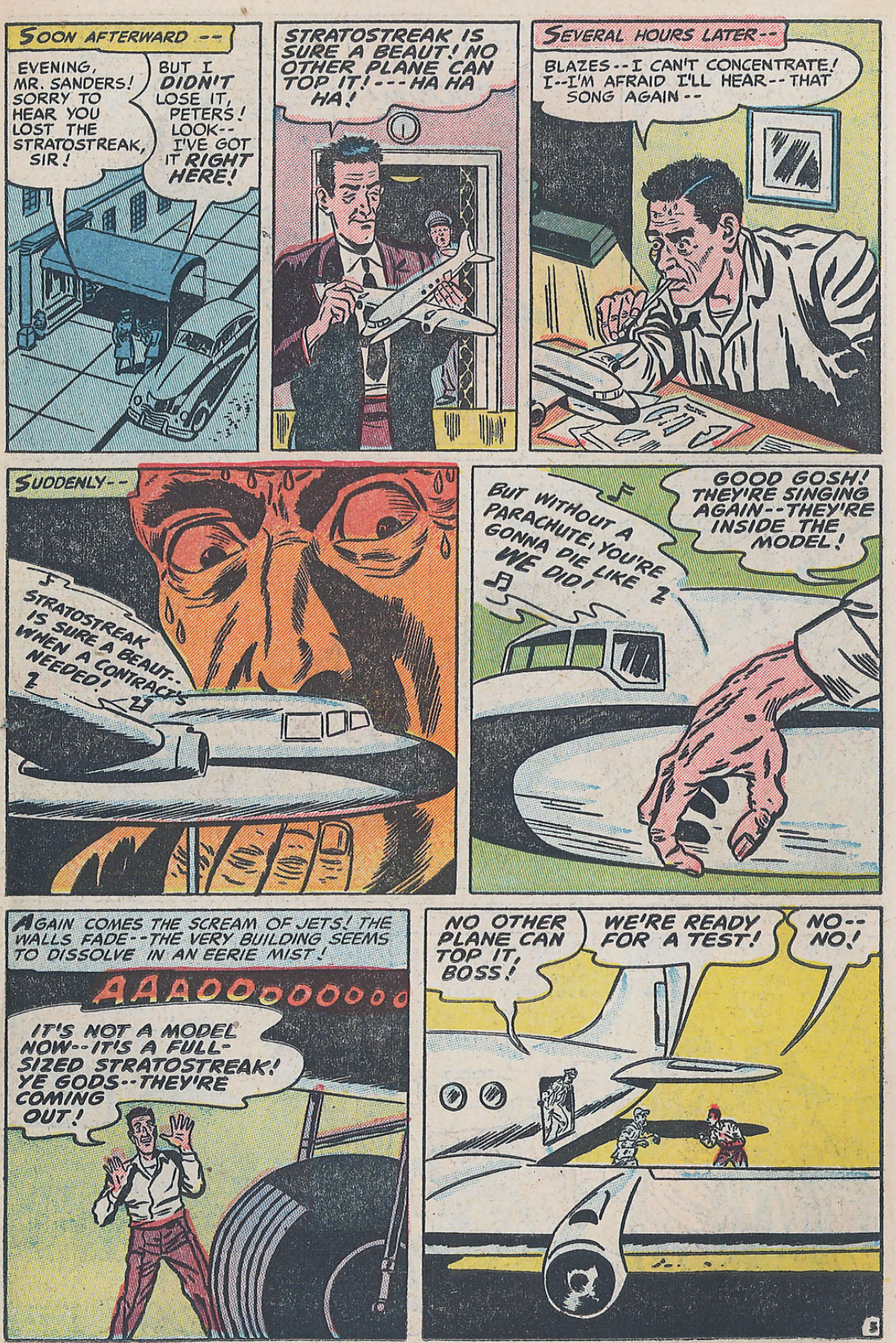





MINUTES LATER--THE STRATOSTREAK TAKES OFF!
WOOOOSH!
SURE, IT'S A RISK--BUT ALL I WANT TO DO IS KEEP THE STRATOSTREAK IN THE AIR LONG ENOUGH TO SELL A FLEET OF 'EM TO COASTLINE AIRWAYS! THEN THE BUGS AND KINKS WILL BE THEIR HEADACHE!
AT SANDERS' POST--FAR BACK IN THE FUSELAGE--
ONE OF THE STRESS INDICATORS IS VIBRATING LIKE CRAZY! SOMETHING'S GONE HAYWIRE WITH THE STARBOARD WING!
IF I WARN THE OTHERS, THEY'LL DITCH THE PLANE--IT'LL BE A TOTAL LOSS! BUT IF THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT, THERE'S A CHANCE THEY CAN BRING HER DOWN SAFELY --AND NO ONE'LL BE THE WISER!
AS FOR ME--I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES!
THEY'VE SPOTTED ME! LOOK AT THE PANIC ON THEIR FACES--AND THE HATRED!
GRRAK!
TOUGH BREAK... I LIKED THOSE GUYS!
CRASH!
LATER--AS KENT W. SANDERS FACED THE PRESS--
YOU SAY THE CRASH WAS DUE TO MAN-FAILURE, MR. SANDERS? THE PILOT RACED THE JETS TOO FAST?
RIGHT--THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THE STRATO-STREAK! I'M GOING TO HAVE COASTLINE AIRWAYS WAIT A FEW MONTHS--UNTIL I CAN ASSEMBLE ANOTHER TEST MODEL!
2


YEP-- I'VE GOT TO TURN OUT ANOTHER STRATOSTREAK! IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR THOSE FELLOWS WHO DIED TODAY-- I OWE IT TO THEM!
HA HA HA HA HA
WHAT'S SO FUNNY? DO YOU GUYS THINK A PLANE CRASH IS SOMETHING TO LAUGH AT?
YOU GOT US WRONG, MR. SANDERS-- WE DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND!
KENT W. SANDERS AIRCRAFT CO.
3751
KENT W.
OKAY-- YOU DIDN'T LAUGH! BUT QUIT THROWING SCRAPS OF PAPER AROUND MY OFFICE!
I DON'T SEE A THING-- HE'S OFF HIS WHACK!
THEN-- IN A GHOSTLY FLURRY--
MY GOSH-- THE TORN PAPER'S LIKE A BLIZZARD! WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?
HOLY MACKEREL-- IT'S THEM!
STRATOSTREAK IS SURE A BEAUT-- NO OTHER PLANE CAN TOP IT!
RRRIP! RRRIP!
ESPECIALLY IF YOU PARACHUTE-- AND LIVE TO GRAB THE PROFIT--
RRRIP!
RRRIP!
RIP!
THEY'RE DESTROYING THE PLANS!
3


HELLO, SANDERS!
EXCUSE OUR BARGING IN LOOKING LIKE THIS!
BUT YOU'RE BOUND TO BE MESSY AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO US!
RRRIP!
RRIP!
HA HA! STRATOSTREAK IS SURE A BEAUT!
YEAH! I HEAR NO OTHER PLANE CAN TOP IT!
STOP-- STOP!
THEN--SOMETHING LIKE THE SCREAM OF A DIVING JET WENT OFF IN KENT W. SANDERS' HEAD!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING EVEN THIS WAY! IT'S MY PLANE--MINE!
A MOMENT LATER--
THEY'RE DEAD... THEY CAN'T HAVE MY PLANE!
FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE, MR. SANDERS-- TAKE IT EASY! THERE'S NO ONE HERE BUT US!
THE SHOCK OF THE ACCIDENT'S BEEN TOO MUCH FOR YOU! FIRST YOU IMAGINE THERE'S TORN PAPER FLOATING AROUND THE OFFICE--AND THEN YOU WRECK THE PLACE!
YOU THINK I'M CRAZY--BUT HERE'S WHERE I KEPT THE STRATOSTREAK PLANS! THEY'RE GONE! THE GHOSTS DESTROYED THEM!
THEY BURNED TO DEATH-- AND NOW THEY'RE OUT FOR REVENGE! BUT I'M GOING TO FOOL THEM!
LET'S SCRAM, JOE! I'M ALMOST READY TO BELIEVE HE DID SEE SOMETHING!
THEY THINK I CAN'T BUILD ANOTHER STRATOSTREAK--BUT HERE'S ONE THING THEY FORGOT! IT'S AN EXACT SCALE MODEL-- I'LL BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE ORIGINAL DIMENSIONS AT HOME--IN A SINGLE NIGHT!
4


SOON AFTERWARD --
EVENING, MR. SANDERS! SORRY TO HEAR YOU LOST THE STRATOSTREAK, SIR!
BUT I DIDN'T LOSE IT, PETERS! LOOK-- I'VE GOT IT RIGHT HERE!
STRATOSTREAK IS SURE A BEAUT! NO OTHER PLANE CAN TOP IT! --- HA HA HA!
SEVERAL HOURS LATER--
BLAZES--I CAN'T CONCENTRATE! I--I'M AFRAID I'LL HEAR--THAT SONG AGAIN--
SUDDENLY--
STRATOSTREAK IS SURE A BEAUT-- WHEN A CONTRACT'S NEEDED!
BUT WITHOUT A PARACHUTE, YOU'RE GONNA DIE LIKE WE DID!
GOOD GOSH! THEY'RE SINGING AGAIN--THEY'RE INSIDE THE MODEL!
AGAIN COMES THE SCREAM OF JETS! THE WALLS FADE--THE VERY BUILDING SEEMS TO DISSOLVE IN AN EERIE MIST!
AAAOOOOOOOO
IT'S NOT A MODEL NOW--IT'S A FULL-SIZED STRATOSTREAK! YE GODS--THEY'RE COMING OUT!
NO OTHER PLANE CAN TOP IT, BOSS!
WE'RE READY FOR A TEST!
NO-- NO!
5


COME ON-- IT'S YOUR PLANE!
THE STRATO-STREAK HAS EVERYTHING, SANDERS!
--EXCEPT A PARACHUTE!
ZZZOOOOM!
THE AIR GREW ICY, AND NOW THERE WERE TWO SCREAMS--ONE FROM THE JETS-- AND ONE FROM SANDERS!
STOP--DON'T POWER DIVE! THE PLANE CAN'T TAKE IT! SHE'LL FALL APART!
HA HA! ISN'T IT A SHAME SOMEONE'S GOTTA DIE TO PROVE A POINT LIKE THAT?
THE WING'S BUCKLING! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH!
NOT US, SANDERS! WE CRASHED ONCE!
CRRAK!
AAAAAAAGH!
THE FOLLOWING DAY--IN SANDERS' APARTMENT--
PRETTY QUEER CASE, DOC! THIS MODEL PLANE IS STRONG--A SLEDGE HAMMER COULDN'T HAVE SMASHED IT LIKE THIS!
OFFICER--ARE YOU POSITIVE SANDERS DIDN'T LEAVE HIS APARTMENT LAST NIGHT?
SURE--THE DOORMAN SWORE TO IT! FIND OUT WHAT KILLED HIM?
YES--AND IT GIVES ME THE SHAKES! EVERY BONE BROKEN--JUST AS IF HE'D FALLEN THOUSANDS OF FEET!
THE END
6

START A FINE BUSINESS IN SPARE TIME!

RUN THE BEST "SHOE STORE BUSINESS" IN YOUR TOWN!



FREE! SELLING OUTFIT

TOP MEN MAKE $5 TO $10 IN AN HOUR!... YOU DON'T INVEST A CENT . . . MAKE BIG PROFITS . . . NO STORE OVERHEAD . . . EXCLUSIVE SALES FEATURES BUILD YOUR REPEAT BUSINESS!



QUICK-START SELLING OUTFIT FREE! YOU DON'T INVEST A CENT!

Now you can have a profitable "Shoe Store Business" right in your hands! None of the expenses of rent, light, fixtures, etc. of the ordinary shoe store. You just make money—up to $84 a week *extra* on just 3 easy sales a day! You're independent, with an opportunity to make a handsome income as long as you care to take orders in a business with a never-ending demand, because EVERYBODY WEARS SHOES.

Just rush the coupon—I'll send you my Quick-Start shoe outfit right away, ABSOLUTELY FREE. Start by selling to friends, relatives, neighbors, to people where you work. Valuable actual samples, and demonstrators of calf skin leather are furnished free of cost to qualified men.

My Professional Selling Outfit contains cut-away demonstrator so your customers can actually *feel* the restful Velvet-eez Air Cushion innersole. Special measuring device—National Advertising reprints—door opener kits—polishing cloths—actual shoes—everything you need to build a profitable repeat business. Here's your chance to join me and get into the BIG MONEY shoe business now!

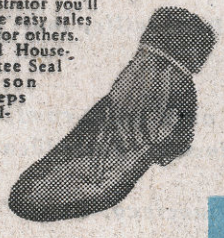


Get Exciting EXTRA Awards This Year!

This year we are celebrating our "Golden Anniversary" . . . 50 years of bringing top quality shoes to the men and women of America. Mason Shoe Counselors will share in thousands of dollars of EXTRA prizes . . . including valuable *free* merchandise awards and bonus checks! Right NOW is the perfect time to start in this profitable business!

NATIONAL ADVERTISING CREATES HUGE DEMAND FOR VELVET-EEZ SHOES!

Due to our National Advertising, millions have seen Mason Velvet-eez Shoes in magazines and on Television. Now we need more good men to satisfy that demand and make plenty of extra cash for themselves. Just show the wonderful exclusive Velvet-eez Air Cushion that brings such comfort to men and women who stand on their feet all day. The Velvet-eez demonstrator you'll get free will make easy sales for you, as it has for others. The famed Good Housekeeping Guarantee Seal is another Mason "extra" that keeps steady profits rolling in!



Guaranteed by Good Housekeeping

OVER 160 FAST-SELLING STYLES FOR MEN & WOMEN!

Satisfy the needs and tastes of almost every person in your community. Sell air-cooled Nylon Mesh shoes with Velvet-eez air cushion innersoles—horsehide, kid, kangaroo leather shoes, slip-resistant Gro-Cork soles, oil-resistant Neoprene soles—every good type of dress, sport and work footwear—over 160 styles for men and women! Your customers will be amazed at the comfort they get from walking on 10,000 tiny air bubbles in Velvet-eez shoes. Also special steel shanks. You're way ahead of competition—you draw on our huge stock of over 200,000 pairs—thus your customers get the EXACT style, size and width they order! Your service ends tiresome shopping from store to store trying to find a shoe that fits in a style the customer wants. Special features make it *extra* easy to sell gas station men, factory workers, waiters, etc. Because Mason Shoes are *not* sold in stores, people must buy from YOU and KEEP buying from you!

Start Right NOW!

Just mail the coupon . . . I'll rush your FREE Starting Outfit that includes EVERYTHING you need to start making exciting cash profits *right away!*

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CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISC.

DON'T DELAY!

SEND FOR FREE OUTFIT!

MR. NED MASON, DEPT. MA-311
MASON SHOE MFG. CO.
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN

Please rush me your FREE Quick Start Shoe Selling Outfit featuring Air Cushion shoes, other fast sellers, *everything* I need to go into this profitable business, and start making immediate cash profits!

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Address. _____

Town. _____ State _____

From YOUR EDITOR - to YOU!

THE DICTIONARY TELLS us that the *supernatural* is that which is "beyond the established course or laws of nature." Well, from the beginning of time man has been trying to determine exactly what *are* the laws of nature. Things which would have been considered miraculous a century ago are now taken for granted everywhere, such as the electric light. We're sure that if a scientist from ancient Egypt wandered into a modern chemical laboratory he'd think he was dreaming.

But throughout the course of history people have been convinced of the existence of certain things which science could not prove or disprove. From all the four corners of the globe come tales of ghosts and vampires, zombies and werewolves. The research staff of *"Forbidden Worlds"* carefully sifts these reports, to bring you finally the most exciting, spellbinding, and plausible.

For a long time now *"Forbidden Worlds"* has dedicated itself to bringing you the best in authentic supernatural tales. To this end we've spared no expense in gathering together as fine a staff of writers and artists as exists in the country. Our editorial policy has been simple: this is *your* magazine; the flood of letters we receive from our loyal fans goes far in deciding what will appear in our pages.

We think our current issue is a good example of how this policy pays dividends. *"The Frogman"* is a spine-tingling yarn, with an eerie menace such as you've never encountered. In the grim pages of *"The Firewalker's Revenge"* you'll come face to face with one of the great secrets of legendary India. *"Tour of Horror"* is just that, a hair-raising adventure into the Unknown itself. As for *"Terror in the Sky"*, we rate it tops for gasping thrills and chills.

We said above that your letters are the life blood of this magazine. We're anxious to know how you feel about our efforts, so why not drop a line to The Editor, *"Forbidden Worlds"*, 45 West 45 Street, New York 36, N. Y. We'll print it as soon as we have space! Now, here's a look into our mailbags:

"Dear Editor:-

I'm a fan of all supernatural stories, but I believe 'Forbidden Worlds' *is tops. I especially liked your recent stories* 'The Drakko' *and* 'The Werewolf's Fangs'.

--Mrs. Jean Bixley, Sacramento, Calif."

"Dear Editor:-

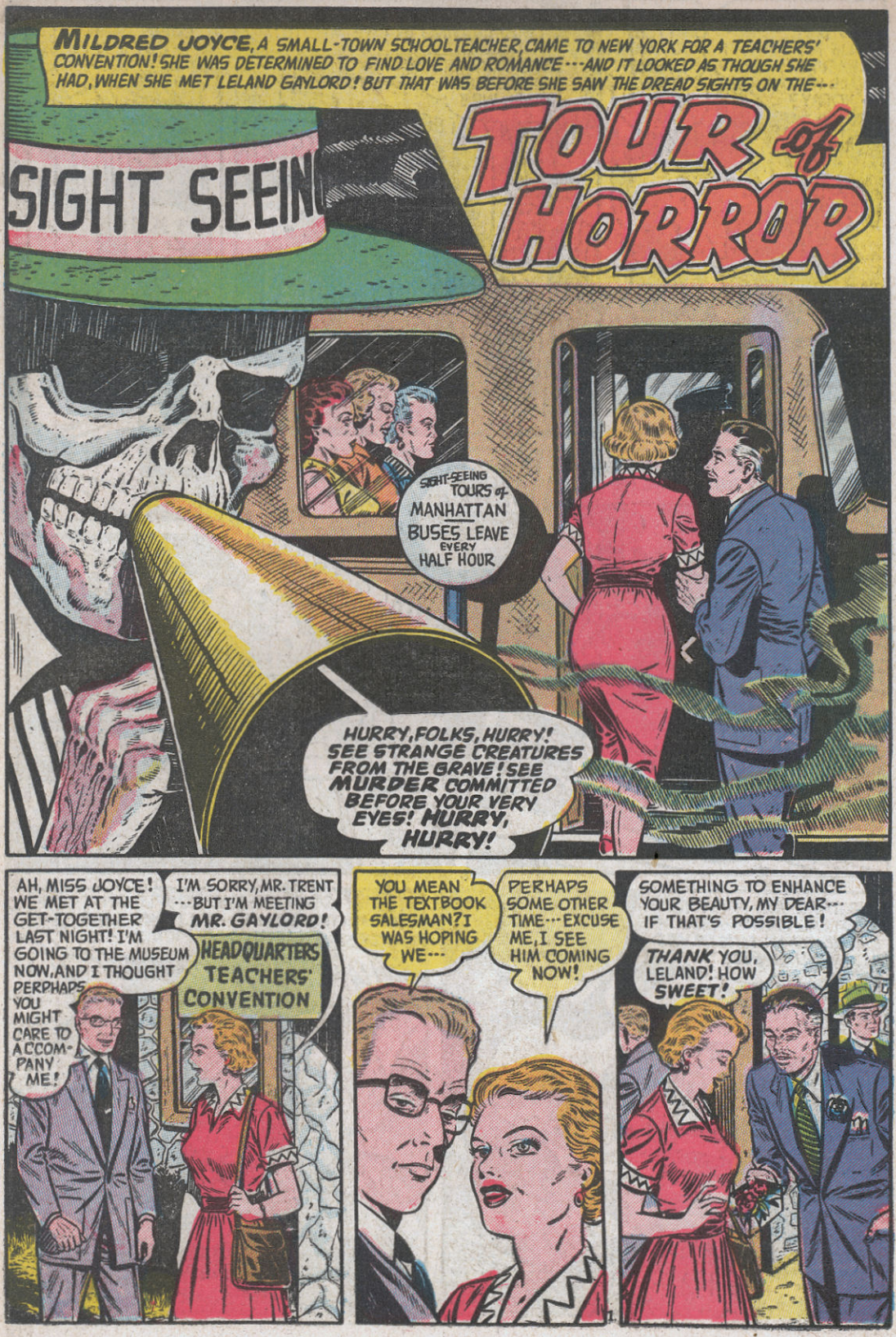
I've read every issue of 'Forbidden Worlds' *and think it the most fascinating magazine I've ever read. Keep up the good work.*

--F. B. Gulley, Evansville, Ind."

"Dear Editor:-

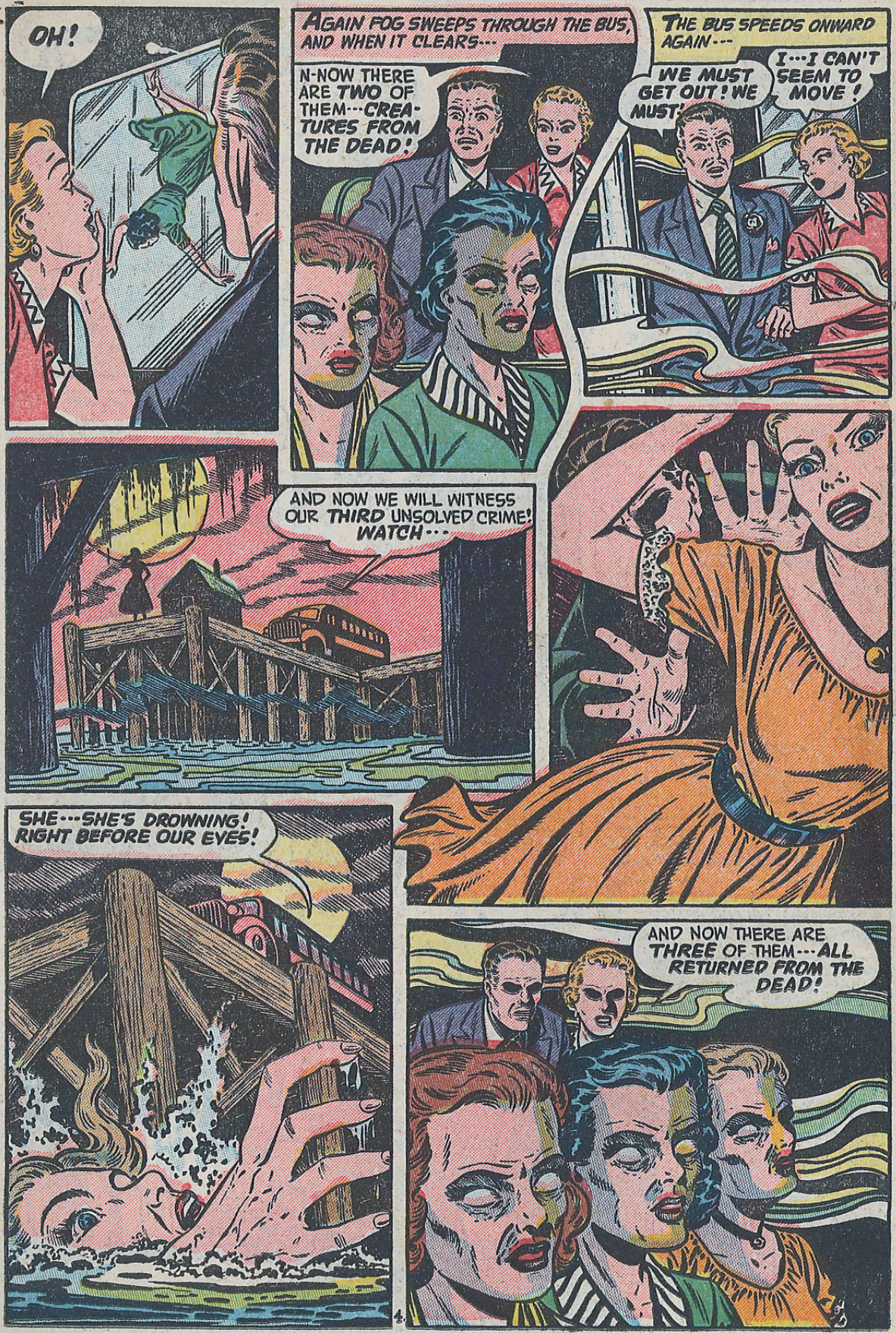
I'd like to compliment you and your staff on a great comic magazine. Thanks for the wonderful entertainment 'Forbidden Worlds' *gives.*

--Edward Maniz, San Francisco, Calif."


MILDRED JOYCE, A SMALL-TOWN SCHOOLTEACHER, CAME TO NEW YORK FOR A TEACHERS' CONVENTION! SHE WAS DETERMINED TO FIND LOVE AND ROMANCE---AND IT LOOKED AS THOUGH SHE HAD, WHEN SHE MET LELAND GAYLORD! BUT THAT WAS BEFORE SHE SAW THE DREAD SIGHTS ON THE---
SIGHT SEEIN
TOUR of HORROR
SIGHT-SEEING TOURS of MANHATTAN BUSES LEAVE EVERY HALF HOUR
HURRY, FOLKS, HURRY! SEE STRANGE CREATURES FROM THE GRAVE! SEE MURDER COMMITTED BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES! HURRY, HURRY!
AH, MISS JOYCE! WE MET AT THE GET-TOGETHER LAST NIGHT! I'M GOING TO THE MUSEUM NOW, AND I THOUGHT PERPHAPS YOU MIGHT CARE TO ACCOMPANY ME!
I'M SORRY, MR. TRENT ---BUT I'M MEETING MR. GAYLORD!
HEADQUARTERS TEACHERS' CONVENTION
YOU MEAN THE TEXTBOOK SALESMAN? I WAS HOPING WE---
PERHAPS SOME OTHER TIME--- EXCUSE ME, I SEE HIM COMING NOW!
SOMETHING TO ENHANCE YOUR BEAUTY, MY DEAR--- IF THAT'S POSSIBLE!
THANK YOU, LELAND! HOW SWEET!


WELL, MILDRED--- THIS VAST METROPOLIS AWAITS YOUR PLEASURE! WHAT SHALL WE DO TODAY?
IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU MAKE EVERYTHING SO MUCH FUN!
SEE THE SIGHTS OF MANHATTAN! BUS LEAVING IN ONE MINUTE!
LET'S TAKE THE TOUR, LELAND--- SHALL WE?
SIGHTSEEIN
SIGHTSEE
WELL, IT'S A RATHER CORNY THING TO DO --- BUT IF IT PLEASES YOU ---
BUT NO SOONER ARE THEY SEATED THAN THE BUS STARTED OFF WITH A ROAR, AND---
THIS SUDDEN FOG--- HOW STRANGE!
AND THE PEOPLE --- THEY'RE ALL GONE! WHAT HAPPENED?
HA HA! THEY WEREN'T PAYING CUSTOMERS, MY DEAR---JUST SHILLS TO LURE US IN! THEY MUST HAVE SLIPPED OUT IN THAT SUDDEN FOG!
WE TAKE YOU FIRST TO CENTRAL PARK---AND THE SCENE OF AN UNSOLVED MURDER!
H-HOW DID WE GET HERE SO FAST?
IGHTSEEING
OBSERVE THE COUPLE ON THE GRASS---IT LOOKS LIKE AN INNOCENT PICNIC---
2


WATCH CLOSELY! HE PUTS THE FATAL POISON IN THE CUP---
SHE DRINKS --- AND DIES!
THAT FOG AGAIN! EVERYTHING'S DISAPPEARED!
IT---IT'S A TRICK OF SOME SORT!
LELAND! LOOK! THE MURDERED WOMAN! SHE'S HERE---AND SHE'S SO HORRIBLE!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WE CAN'T! WE'RE MOVING SO FAST EVERYTHING IS A BLUR!
AND NOW THE BUS STOPS--- BUT MILDRED AND LELAND REMAIN, TRANSFIXED BY HORROR---
ANOTHER SCENE OF AN UNSOLVED CRIME! LOOK UPWARD, AT THE ROOF---
BUY
SEEING
ON THE ROOF, A MAN AND WOMAN STRUGGLE! HE PUSHES HER, AND---


OH!
AGAIN FOG SWEEPS THROUGH THE BUS, AND WHEN IT CLEARS---
N-NOW THERE ARE TWO OF THEM---CREATURES FROM THE DEAD!
THE BUS SPEEDS ONWARD AGAIN---
WE MUST GET OUT! WE MUST!
I---I CAN'T SEEM TO MOVE!
AND NOW WE WILL WITNESS OUR THIRD UNSOLVED CRIME! WATCH---
SHE---SHE'S DROWNING! RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!
AND NOW THERE ARE THREE OF THEM---ALL RETURNED FROM THE DEAD!

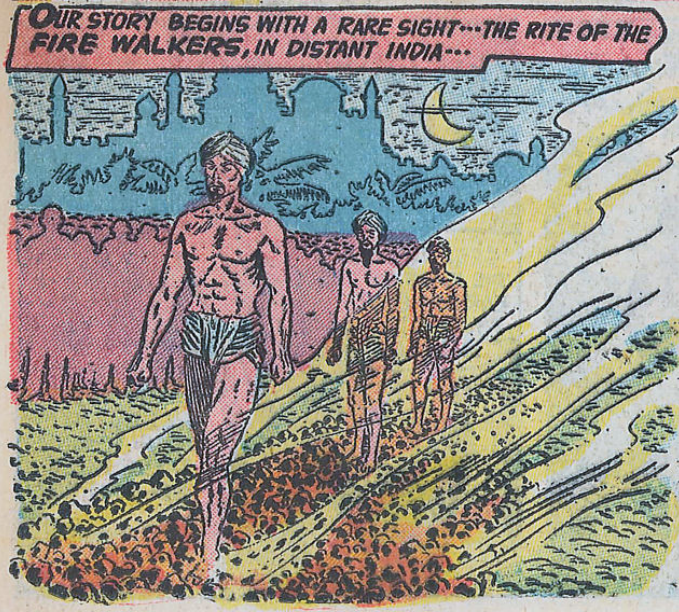

I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY LONGER!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS ···I'M GETTING OUT!
LOOK···THOSE CREATURES··· THEY'RE COMING AFTER US!
NO! NO! YOU'RE DEAD! YOU CAN'T DO THIS! YOU CAN'T!
IT WAS YOU WHO MURDERED US, LELAND!
FIRST YOU MARRIED US, THEN YOU KILLED US··· FOR OUR MONEY!
AND YOU WILL DO THE SAME TO MILDRED ···UNLESS WE STOP YOU!
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME! NEVER! NEVER!
ROARRR
DON'T HIT ME! DON'T! AI-EEE!
LELAND!
WHAM!
AAAGH!


SUDDENLY EVERYTHING GROWS DIM AS THE FOG BOILS UP---
---AND MILDRED FINDS HERSELF BACK IN THE CENTER OF TOWN--- ALONE!
SEE THE SIGHTS OF NEW YORK!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED? COULD I HAVE BEEN--- DREAMING?
WHY, MISS JOYCE ---YOU SEEM TO BE ALONE AGAIN! IS ANYTHING--- WRONG?
MR. TRENT! I-I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
YOU SEEM UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING! PERHAPS I'D BETTER TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR HOTEL!
YES, PERHAPS THAT WOULD BE BEST! BUT PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE--- PLEASE!
SOON, IN THE LOBBY OF MILDRED'S HOTEL--
OH, I SAY! THIS IS A SHOCK! DREADFUL NEWS, MISS JOYCE--- DREADFUL!
DAILY CLARION
LELAND GAYLORD FOUND CRUSHED TO DEATH!
POLICE PUZZLED BY MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
SALESMAN HAD LOST THREE WIVES, ALL MYSTERIOUSLY
YOU MUSTN'T BE OVERCOME BY THIS--- THIS TRAGEDY!
IT ISN'T THAT, HORACE! IT'S JUST THAT I'M SO GLAD I FOUND YOU--- SO GLAD!
THE END!
6

A MILLION YEARS AGO, MAN DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF FIRE···AND THUS BEGAN HIS CONQUEST OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD! BUT TODAY, STRANGE MEN IN A FAR LAND USE DREAD SECRETS OF THE FLAME TO CONQUER THE SPIRITUAL WORLD! HERE'S A TERRIFYING EXAMPLE···THE GRISLY STORY BEHIND···

The FIREWALKER'S REVENGE!





NOT ALL OF THE TOURISTS WERE IMPRESSED BY THE AMAZING EXHIBITION···

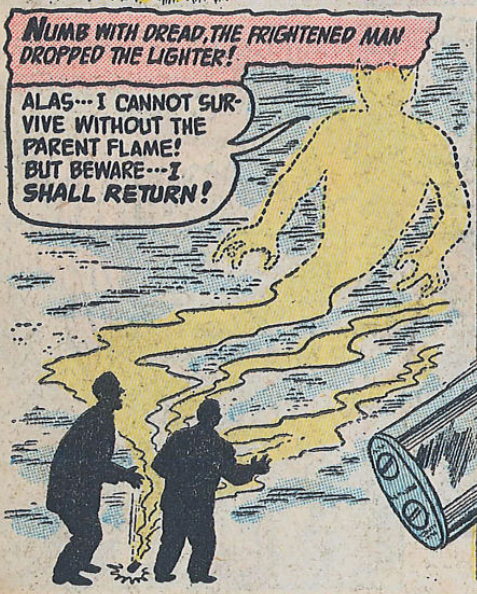



IN THE SHOP OF A VENERABLE GOLD MERCHANT---
WELCOME, SAHIBS ---HOW MAY I SERVE YOU?
OKAY, AL--- THE COAST IS CLEAR!
START LOOKIN' AROUND---HURRY IT UP!
GOLD DUST--- WE'RE RICH!
THUD!
AS THE RITE OF THE FIRE WALKERS CAME TO AN END, TWO FURTIVE FIGURES VANISHED INTO THE GLOOM---
NAHIS RAHU GOLD MERCHANT
HURRY! ONE O' THOSE FIRE WALKERS IS GOIN' INTO THE SHOP!
FATHER! WHAT---
YES---ED AND AL HAD CHOSEN THE WRONG VICTIM!
WHOEVER COMMITTED THIS COWARDLY CRIME SHALL PERISH--- I VOW IT!
That NIGHT, THE AWESOME FORCES OF SPIRITUAL VENGEANCE TOOK DREADFUL SHAPE!
O, SPIRIT OF THE FIRE! WE SEEK REVENGE ON THOSE WHO WRONGED US--- WE CALL FOR YOUR AID!
THE SPIRIT APPEARS!
SEEK THEM TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH---BURN THEM TO ASHES!
SOONER OR LATER, THEY WILL ENCOUNTER FIRE! AND THERE WILL I BE--WAITING!


THUS WAS THE STAGE SET FOR SEARING TERROR!
REMEMBER···LET NOTHING STAND IN THE WAY OF YOUR REVENGE!
SPUT·T·T·T!


MEANWHILE, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, THE CRIMINALS RETURNED FROM THEIR WANDERINGS···
A NICE HAUL··· TRAVEL SURE BROADENS THE POCKET-BOOK!
YEAH···AND MIXIN' THAT GOLD DUST WITH TOBACCO WAS A GOOD IDEA!
GATE 12


THE FIRST HINT OF THE HORROR TO COME···AS AL LIT A CIGARET···
HAH! MY VENGEANCE COMES QUICKLY··· NOW DIE, FOOLS!
WHAT THE···!


NUMB WITH DREAD, THE FRIGHTENED MAN DROPPED THE LIGHTER!
ALAS··· I CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT THE PARENT FLAME! BUT BEWARE··· I SHALL RETURN!


IT'S THOSE CREEPY FIREWALKERS! THEY'VE SICCED ONE O' THEIR SPIRITS ON US!
YEAH! WE GOTTA KEEP AWAY FROM ALL FIRE···FROM NOW ON!
FLY
TRANS
A.B.


LATER···IN A RESTAURANT···
GUESS WE'RE SAFE HERE··· NOBODY NEAR US IS SMOKIN'!
HERE ARE THE CREPES SUZETTES, MESSIEURS!


BUT THEY FORGOT···CREPES SUZETTES ARE ALWAYS SERVED IN BURNING BRANDY!
I WARNED YOU! THIS TIME YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE!
YI-I-I!


THIS TIME, IT WAS A FIRE EXTINGUISHER WHICH SAVED THEM···
ARGH! ONCE AGAIN I FAIL!
HISSS!
CRASH!
NOW THE TWO FUGITIVES TREMBLED WITH THE DESPERATION OF HUNTED ANIMALS···
AL--I C-CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE O' THIS! WHAT'LL WE DO?
TURN OURSELVES IN TO THE COPS! IT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT!
YOU GOTTA PUT US IN JAIL··· TO SAVE OUR LIVES!
HUH? WHAT'S THE GAG?
WHEN THE ASTOUNDING STORY WAS TOLD···
EVER HEAR ANYTHING AS CRAZY AS THAT, DICK?
NOPE··· I THINK THEY'RE BOTH NUTS!
OH, YEAH? G'WAN··· LIGHT A MATCH!
IMPATIENTLY, DETECTIVE DICK BRADLEY STRUCK A MATCH···
SEE? WE TOLD YA!
HOLY SMOKE!
WHOOSH!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, BUT I DO KNOW WE'RE UP AGAINST SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL!
YEAH, AN' WE WANT TO BE PROTECTED!

The PROBLEM WAS TAKEN TO THE POLICE COMMISSIONER···

THESE LADS ARE A MENACE, CHIEF! IF THAT MONSTER GETS OUT OF CONTROL, IT COULD MEAN DISASTER!

BETTER LOCK THEM UP UNTIL I CONTACT THE GOVERNOR!

MEANWHILE, AT A STEEL FOUNDRY IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN···

OKAY, JOE--LET'S BANK THOSE FIRES AND GO HOME!

INSIDE THE BLAZING FURNACE··· BROODING DESTRUCTION!

I WAS COMMANDED TO LET NOTHING STAND IN MY WAY! I MUST USE MY FULL POWERS TO REACH THE EVIL ONES!

A MIGHTY SURGE OF SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH, AND···

CR-RASH!

THE FOUNDRY ···IT'S BLOWN UP! AND··· WHAT'S THAT?

THE FLAMES ···THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE ALIVE!

MOLTEN STEEL FLOWED FROM THE WRECKED BUILDING···AND ALONG THE FIERY STREAM RACED A FEARFUL FIGURE!

WATER···QUICK! IF THAT THING REACHES THOSE GAS STORAGE TANKS···

TOO LATE! A BLINDING BURST OF LIGHT···AND THE SKY TURNED INTO A RAGING INFERNO!

NOW I HAVE ATTAINED INVINCIBLE MIGHT! NOTHING CAN PREVENT MY VENGEANCE!

KER-WHAM!

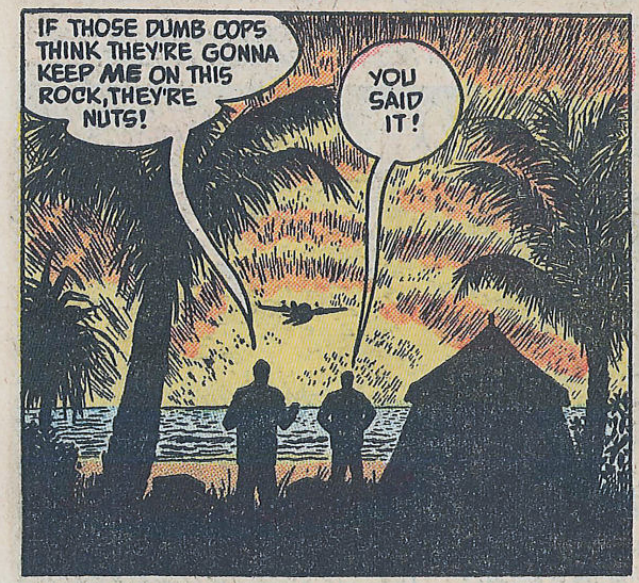
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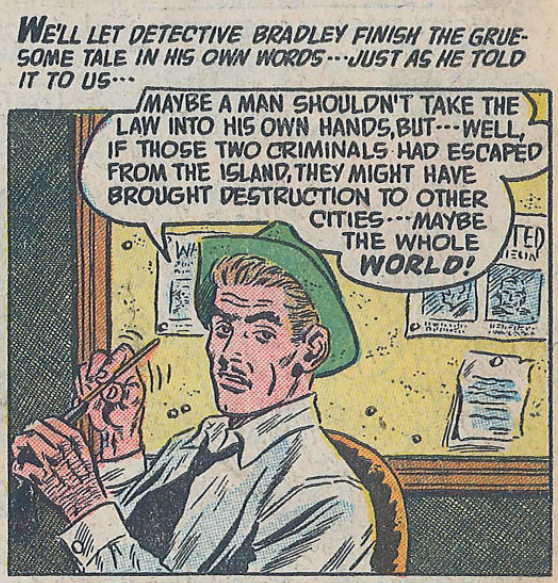
GAS

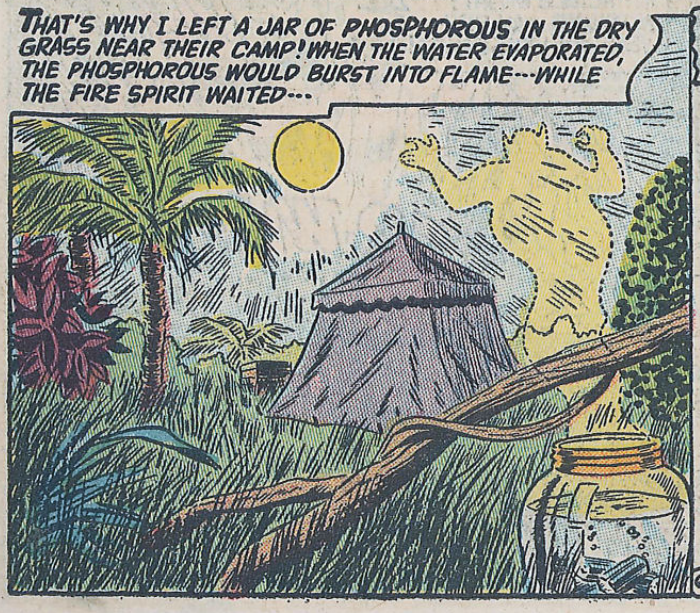

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE TOWN JAIL···
HELP! LET US OUTTA HERE!
THAT FIRE MONSTER···HE'S A MILE HIGH··· AN' COMIN' AFTER US!


AS THE POLICE COMMISSIONER RECEIVED A FRANTIC MESSAGE···
WHAT IS IT, CHIEF?
EMERGENCY ORDERS FROM THE GOVERNOR! LISTEN···


IN THE NICK OF TIME, THE ORDERS WERE CARRIED OUT···
YOU KILLERS DON'T DESERVE IT, BUT THERE'S YOUR NEW HOME! WE'RE MAROONING YOU ON A DESERT ISLAND···ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS KEEP IT FREE FROM FIRE!


IF THOSE DUMB COPS THINK THEY'RE GONNA KEEP ME ON THIS ROCK, THEY'RE NUTS!
YOU SAID IT!

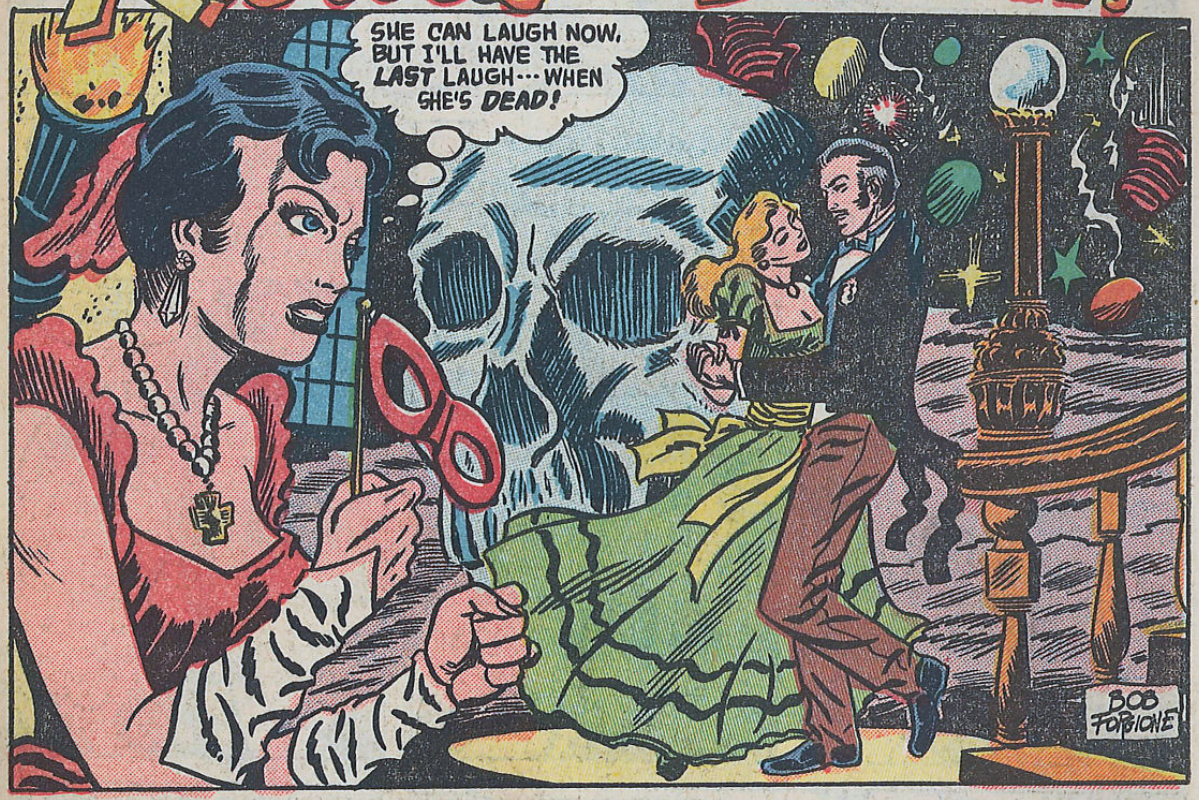

WE'LL LET DETECTIVE BRADLEY FINISH THE GRUESOME TALE IN HIS OWN WORDS···JUST AS HE TOLD IT TO US···
MAYBE A MAN SHOULDN'T TAKE THE LAW INTO HIS OWN HANDS, BUT···WELL, IF THOSE TWO CRIMINALS HAD ESCAPED FROM THE ISLAND, THEY MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT DESTRUCTION TO OTHER CITIES···MAYBE THE WHOLE WORLD!

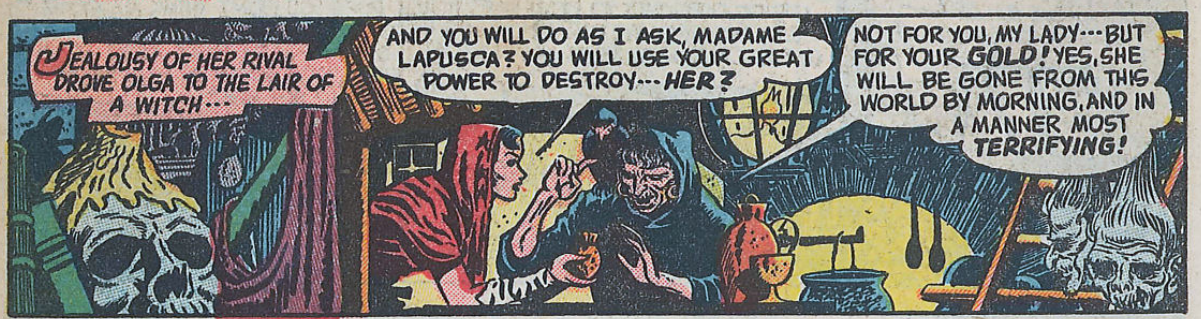

THAT'S WHY I LEFT A JAR OF PHOSPHOROUS IN THE DRY GRASS NEAR THEIR CAMP! WHEN THE WATER EVAPORATED, THE PHOSPHOROUS WOULD BURST INTO FLAME···WHILE THE FIRE SPIRIT WAITED···


MAYBE YOU HEARD THE NEWS REPORT, NEXT DAY···
LAST NIGHT, A SMALL PACIFIC ISLAND MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED IN A SEETHING MASS OF TOWERING FLAMES! THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS!
THE END!

BOTH OF THEM WERE IN LOVE WITH THE HANDSOME COUNT---EACH EQUALLY DETERMINED TO BECOME HIS BRIDE! AND SO HATE AND ENVY TURNED THEM INTO---

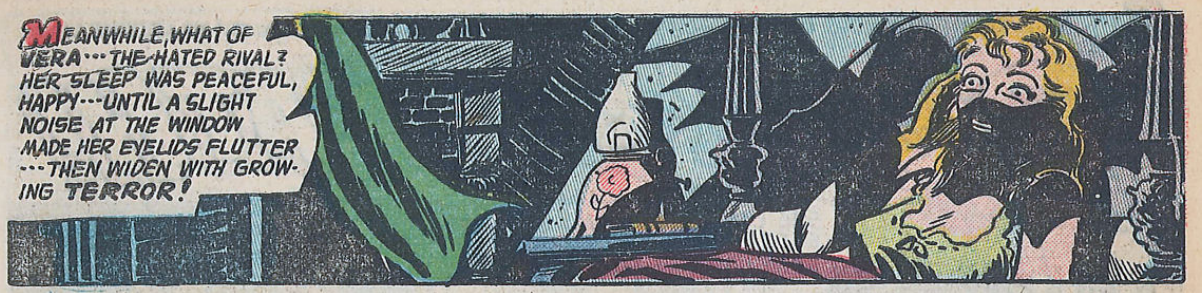
Rivals unto DEATH!

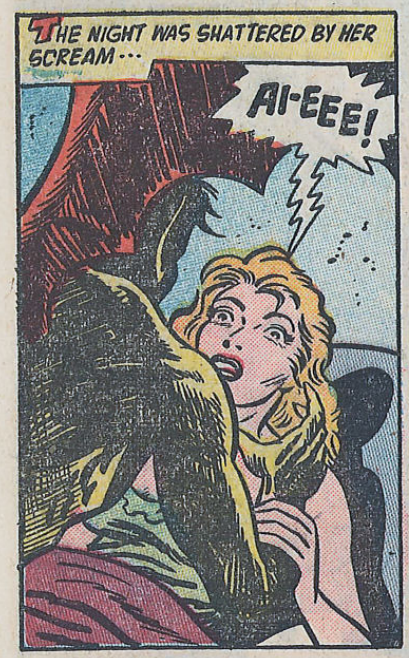








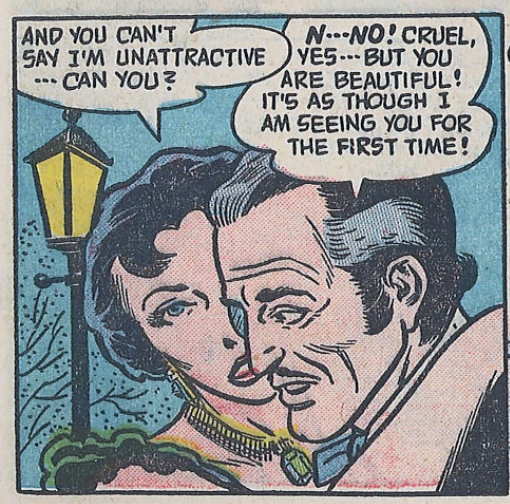

MEANWHILE, WHAT OF VERA··· THE HATED RIVAL? HER SLEEP WAS PEACEFUL, HAPPY··· UNTIL A SLIGHT NOISE AT THE WINDOW MADE HER EYELIDS FLUTTER ···THEN WIDEN WITH GROWING TERROR!


THE NIGHT WAS SHATTERED BY HER SCREAM···
AI-EEE!


THE FOLLOWING MORNING···
···AND NO ONE KNOWS WHO DID IT! SHE WAS FOUND BY HER MAID ONLY A FEW HOURS AGO! IT WAS HORRIBLE, MADAME!
HOW TRAGIC, COLETTE!

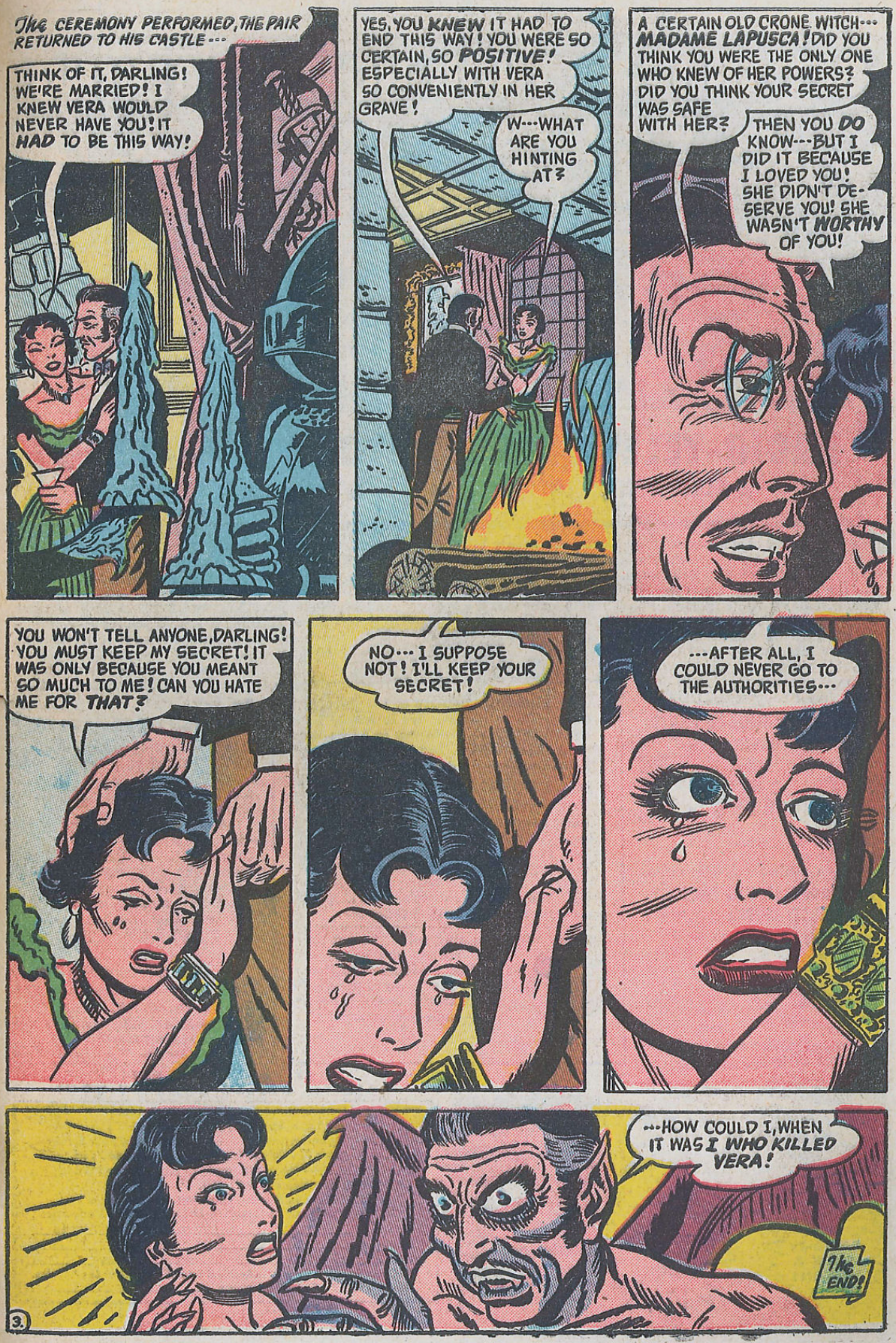

BUT THEN LIFE MUST GO ON! A BALL WILL PUT US ALL IN BETTER SPIRITS! HAVE THE INVITATIONS PREPARED FOR A WEEK HENCE··· AND MAKE CERTAIN THAT COUNT DESMOND HEADS THE LIST!
YES, MADAME!


AS THE BALL WAS IN PROGRESS···
IT'S SO DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE! ONLY LAST WEEK WE DANCED TOGETHER, AND NOW VERA IS DEAD!
I HOPE YOU WON'T THINK ME CRUEL FOR SAYING THIS, BUT I CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY! IF VERA WERE ALIVE TONIGHT, SHE WOULD BE WITH YOU NOW ···AND NOT ME!


AND YOU CAN'T SAY I'M UNATTRACTIVE ···CAN YOU?
N···NO! CRUEL, YES··· BUT YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL! IT'S AS THOUGH I AM SEEING YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME!

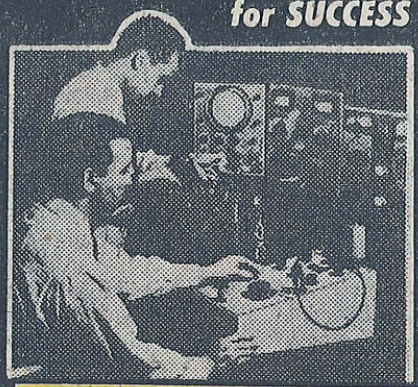

ONE NIGHT, SEVERAL WEEKS LATER···


THESE PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE REVEALED SOMETHING TO ME, OLGA! I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU! I WANT TO MARRY YOU ···AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!
I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD SAY THAT, DARLING···BECAUSE I LOVE YOU TOO! I WANT TO MARRY YOU ···TONIGHT! I DON'T WANT TO WAIT ANOTHER DAY!

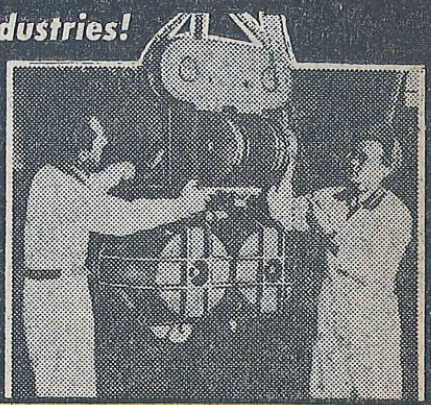

THE CEREMONY PERFORMED, THE PAIR RETURNED TO HIS CASTLE---
THINK OF IT, DARLING! WE'RE MARRIED! I KNEW VERA WOULD NEVER HAVE YOU! IT HAD TO BE THIS WAY!
YES, YOU KNEW IT HAD TO END THIS WAY! YOU WERE SO CERTAIN, SO POSITIVE! ESPECIALLY WITH VERA SO CONVENIENTLY IN HER GRAVE!
W---WHAT ARE YOU HINTING AT?
A CERTAIN OLD CRONE WITCH--- MADAME LAPUSCA! DID YOU THINK YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW OF HER POWERS? DID YOU THINK YOUR SECRET WAS SAFE WITH HER?
THEN YOU DO KNOW---BUT I DID IT BECAUSE I LOVED YOU! SHE DIDN'T DESERVE YOU! SHE WASN'T WORTHY OF YOU!
YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE, DARLING! YOU MUST KEEP MY SECRET! IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE YOU MEANT SO MUCH TO ME! CAN YOU HATE ME FOR THAT?
NO--- I SUPPOSE NOT! I'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET!
---AFTER ALL, I COULD NEVER GO TO THE AUTHORITIES---
---HOW COULD I, WHEN IT WAS I WHO KILLED VERA!
THE END!
3.

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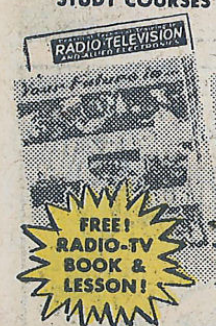
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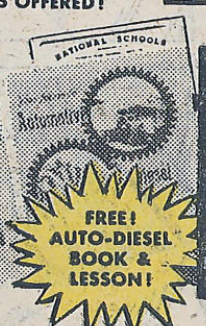
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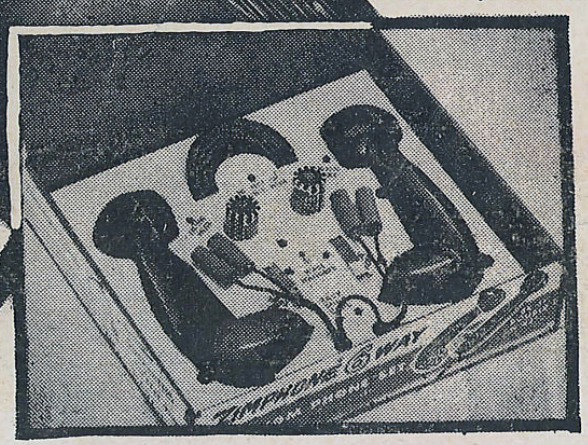
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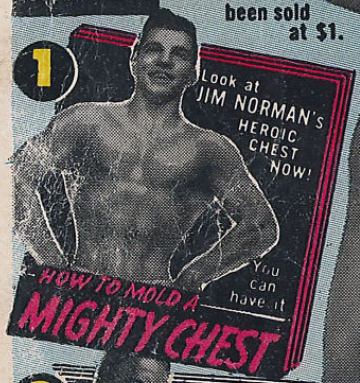
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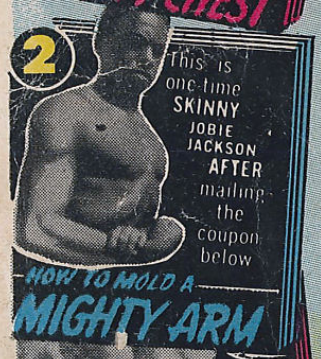
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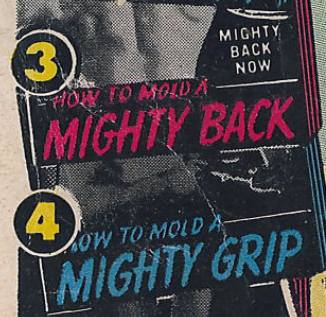
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